

PLAN TO GRILL WIDOW ON HALL LOVE

Simpson to Ask Detailed Story Of Mills Affair

By LEO J. CASEY
GRAPHIC Staff Correspondent

SOMERVILLE, N. J., Oct. 19.—Did the Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall and the woman now accused of murdering him cease to live together as husband and wife a year before the clergyman was slain with his choir singer inamorata?

When Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall takes the witness stand next month in her trial for murder, together with Willie and Henry Stevens, her brothers, she will be asked this question by Special Prosecutor Alexander W. Simpson, it was learned today.

"Despite Simpson's aversion to antagonizing the jury by bearing down too severely on the slain clergyman's widow, the prosecutor will seek to make her reveal this intimate secret.

May Change Her Story

He will ask the question in order to strengthen his argument that Mrs. Hall had a motive for wishing Mrs. Mills dead.

Four years ago in an answer to reporters' questions, Mrs. Hall asserted that her married life was very happy and that she and the dead clergyman had lived together as husband and wife up to the day he was killed.

Senator Simpson is aware of the widow's previous answers to the question he will ask her, but he believes she may change her story under oath.

Defense lawyers are marshaling an array of witnesses to prove that Mrs. Hall at no time before his death knew of her husband's infidelity.

One of those who stands ready to say that the minister and his wife exhibited only the most affectionate regard for each other is Louise Geist, at the time of the murders a maid in the Hall household.

Miss Geist told a GRAPHIC reporter today that she knew of few couples who even approached the marital happiness of her employers.

Mrs. Hall called her husband "dear" almost every time she addressed him in their home, Miss Geist said, and Dr. Hall resounded with "Hon" to the affectionate salutations of his wife.

Miss Geist's expected testimony during the trial is understood to be one of the chief reasons why the special prosecutor contemplates asking the grand jury on Tuesday to indict the maid as an accessory after the fact.

Low Fields Falls Ill On Eve of New Show; May Operate

Low Fields, who was to have opened here tomorrow night in "The Wild Rose,"



will enter the 5th Avenue Hospital today for an abdominal operation. While his condition is not critical an immediate operation was decided upon to avert serious trouble. The operation will be performed by Dr. Philip Grausman of 130 West 58th St. within a few days. William Collier has been engaged to play Mr. Fields's role. Despite the sudden change in artists no postponement is contemplated. The play is scheduled to open tomorrow night at the Martin Beck Theater.

Smith Hits Republicans For Stand on Water Power

By a GRAPHIC Staff Correspondent

ROCHESTER, Oct. 19.—By far the greatest and most enthusiastic greeting tendered Gov. Smith during his campaign was accorded the Democratic nominee here last night. A crowd of 7,000 ardent Smith admirers cheered Al to the echo in Convention Hall.

It was a real old-time political rally, with blaring bands, red fire and spontaneous cheering. A steady downpour of rain was no deterrent to the gathering or the enthusiasm. The huge auditorium was filled to overflowing an hour before the governor arrived.

From all indications, Monroe county again will swing into the Smith Column on Election Day with a splendid plurality, as it did four years ago.

Gov. Smith spoke at length on the development of the state's water power resources. It was the first time during his campaign that he has discussed this subject. He charged the Republican party with pursuing one policy for water power development nationally and a different attitude on the subject in this state, asserting that his opponents favor the development of these resources by private capital under limited leases, while the Democrats seek the enactment of laws guaranteeing perpetual ownership and control by the people of the state.

"The Republican-controlled Wa-

Add 1,024 Police To New Budget For Next Year

The city's police force will be increased next year by 1,000 patrolmen, four inspectors and twenty lieutenants, following the action of the Board of Estimate in voting an increase of \$4,401,934.50 in the Police Department expenditures next year, with a total of \$43,711,111.

Commissioner McLaughlin appeared in person before the board to urge the claims of the department. He had originally asked for 2,654 additional patrolmen at a cost of \$4,694,000, and sixty-two instead of twenty additional lieutenants.

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FRIDAY

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ter Power Commission has had authority to make water power leases for two years," the governor said, "yet all they have done is to talk about it."

Senator Wadsworth's record was attacked by former Justice Robert F. Wagner, senatorial nominee, in his speech last night, as one of the inaction and reaction. He again

asked Wadsworth how he will advise his followers to vote on the prohibition amendment. Justice Wagner received a rousing welcome.

The governor's party will leave here at 12.27 p. m., arriving in Syracuse tonight. Later the party will go on to Utica for a rally on tomorrow night.

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